

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

FIRST SERGEANT TRACY L. STAPLEY

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a recently fallen soldier, 1SG Tracy L. Stapley, one of Utah's finest. He left this earth on July 3, 2013, while serving our country at Camp As Sayliyah, Qatar.

First Sergeant Stapley was an Army man, and his family is an Army family. His love for our country showed through his actions. He served in the U.S. Army Reserve for 26 years, and was assigned to the 308th Medical Logistics Company. He also worked full-time for the Army Reserve as a civilian, and his presence among co-workers will be sorely missed. The 308th recently posted a tribute to First Sergeant Stapley online, part of which I would like to read:

First Sergeant was an amazing leader, mentor, and friend. He always placed his soldiers first and had their backs from day one. To many, he was more than just a first sergeant, he was a friend and a confidant. First Sergeant Stapley was the glue that held the unit together. He excelled in all aspects of his life; from the unit's first sergeant, to his civilian employment, to being a husband and father.

Tracy and his dear wife Antionette are the parents of two beautiful children, Trase and Kennedy. Known as the "dance dad," Tracey was an ardent supporter of Kennedy's dancing. He also loved to attend Trase's sporting events. The unmatched pride of a father was frequently seen at many recitals, and on many sidelines. I trust that all Utahns share the pride that I feel, knowing that this fellow Utahn served not only his country, but also his family with honor and love.

It is comforting to me to know that First Sergeant Stapley's love for our country and dedication to excellence lives on through his family. His son Trase is currently a cadet at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, and I am confident that he is representing Utah and the Stapley family well.

First Sergeant Stapley was always helping others, even when help was unsolicited. His son Trase wrote that Tracy was "a man worth praising and a friend worth having; . . . a fun-loving jokester." Trase added:

He loved the family and loved being around us making sure we had everything we ever needed and more. He was the best. We love you Dude, Rest in Peace. Come see us sometime.

It warms my soul to witness the sustaining power of faith, and the love that a son has for his father.

I imagine that First Sergeant Stapley, like many of our service men and women, would deny the claim that he is a hero. To Tracy, and all of our soldiers, I would say that you are among the few heroes left in our modern world. As Americans, we all feel a profound sense of pride and honor when we see a uniformed soldier, and we would be wise to remember our heroes in all that we do, especially in this body. It is true that we honor those

who have gone before by living our lives with excellence today.

I thank 1SG Tracy L. Stapley for his honorable service in defense of the Constitution and our freedom, and I thank all of our men and women who have also given the ultimate sacrifice. I would like to convey my condolences and profound gratitude to his wife Antionette, his daughter Kennedy, his son Trase, and his father John. Our thoughts and prayers are with you, and with your entire family. It is my solemn hope that we, as Senators, will always remember the tremendous sacrifice, laid upon the altar of freedom by our brave soldiers and their families.

HONORING PRIVATE FIRST CLASS
WALTER HERBERT ANDERSON

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, today I rise to honor PFC Walter Herbert Anderson, who has been awarded a posthumous Purple Heart for his service in World War I. He was born in Toquerville, Utah Territory, on February 3, 1895, 1 year before Utah officially became a State. Little did he know that his service would take him around the world and change the rest of his life. PFC Anderson was involved in some of the largest American offensives of the war and served his country with honor. He was part of the famous 91st Division, affectionately referred to as the "Wild West Division."

The division consisted of a group of inexperienced young men from several Western States. Although they were shipped to Europe in the eleventh hour of the war, as all Americans were, they fought in some of the most ferocious operations. Private First Class Anderson, a member of the 346th artillery regiment, was part of three major offensives: the Saint Mihiel Offensive, France; the Meuse-Argonne Offensive, France, and the Ypres-Lys Offensive, Belgium.

During the Meuse-Argonne Offensive in October 1918, Private First Class Anderson was debilitated by a German gas attack. In World War I, due to the limited knowledge regarding the effects of chemical warfare, gassed soldiers were not counted among the wounded in medical records or morning reports. According to the U.S. Army Medical Department's Office of Medical History, 229 soldiers were gassed from the 91st Division during the Meuse-Argonne Offensive. These soldiers were not put in the hospitals because of gas residuals, which were active for days.

The American casualties from mustard gas were carried to portable "gas hospitals." These consisted of temporary shelters or local homes. In all, during the Meuse-Argonne campaign, there were 20,000 chemical warfare casualties, comprising 22 percent of all injuries during the campaign. Within 24 hours of exposure, victims experienced skin irritations, which often turned into large blisters. If eyes were exposed, as Private First Class Anderson's were, resulting symptoms usually

included swelling, pus, and temporary blindness.

U.S. doctors treated Private First Class Anderson in a private home at La-Ferté-Barnard, France, for about 6 weeks. He was not counted among the wounded. His injuries consisted of temporary blindness, sticky eyes, burning and pain, bronchial problems, and nervousness. Such was the sacrifice that Private First Class Anderson, along with many of his brothers-in-arms, made to defeat the despotic regimes of Central Europe.

Private First Class Anderson was released from the Army in April 1919. Upon release, he was told that his eye problems and nervousness would go away. On April 6, 1921, Private First Class Anderson signed an affidavit of disability and honorable discharge, stating that he "was gassed about October 2, 1918, at the Meuse-Argonne, and was treated by U.S. doctors in a private home at La-Ferté-Bernard, France." His eyes had a film over them, and his eyelids were granulated. He was officially diagnosed with trachoma, which was caused by exposure to mustard gas. He lived honorably with this disability for the rest of his life.

Private First Class Anderson left a legacy of service and sacrifice to his posterity. He served as the post commander of the Utah Veterans of Foreign Wars, and two of his sons also served in the U.S. Armed Forces. He was Salt Lake County commissioner from 1937 to 1938 and also served as a clerk for the Utah House of Representatives. At age 57, he lost an eye as a result of a tumor development and subsequent operation. He pushed on with one eye, until in 1955, stricken with cancer, he left this frail existence for a more exalted sphere.

To Walter and his dear wife Lola and to their posterity, on behalf of the U.S. Senate and the people of Utah, I sincerely thank you for your sacrifices, your love of country, and your honorable service. May the life of PFC Walter Herbert Anderson, deserving the honor of being included in The Military Order of the Purple Heart, shine as an example for us and for future generations. It is my prayer that we will always remember the sacrifices of our brave military men and women who have fought and who continue to fight in defense of our Constitution and our liberty.

TRIBUTE TO ALTON "RED"
FRANKLIN

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, today I wish to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing September 6, 2013, as Coach Alton "Red" Franklin Day in the State of Louisiana. On this date, Coach Franklin's 35 years of leadership and service to the football program at Haynesville High School as head coach